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Message Text

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73
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 /074 W
---------- 020172
R 311324Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7760
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4951

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, SY
SUBJECT: PERES TV INTERVIEW

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. WISH TO CALL ADDRESSEES ATTENTION TO FBIS TA 292215, WHICH TRANSMITS TEXT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN BY DEFMIN PERES ON POPULAR ISRAELI TELEVISION PROGRAM ON JULY 29.

2. IN CONTRAST TO CRITICAL TREATMENT BY ISRAELI PRESS OF SEVERAL RECENT SADAT SPEECHES, PERES APPEARED TO DISMISS THEM LIGHTLY WITH SUGGESTION THAT "SADAT HAS BECOME TIRED OF BEING POLITE FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE." IN HIS OPINION, IF EGYPT SEEKS A SETTLEMENT IT IS NOT BECAUSE OF A CHANGED ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL BUT BECAUSE OF A DESIRE TO DEAL WITH EGYPTIAN INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

3. PERES STATED THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE READY TO "GAMBLE" ON POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN READINESS TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF ITS POLICIES. QUOTE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A DIFFERENT DIRECTION IS RAISING ITS HEAD IN EGYPT, A PHARAONIC DIRECTION, AN EGYPTIAN
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DIRECTION, A DIRECTION OF CONCENTRATION UPON

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INTERNAL ISSUES. LET US GIVE THIS DIRECTION A
CHANCE - A TERRITORIAL CHANCE. END QUOTE.

4. PERES ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF OTHER TOPICS DURING
COURSE OF LENGTHY INTERVIEW. FOLLOWING ARE
HIGHLIGHTS.

5. AMERICAN PRESENCE AT SURVEILLANCE STATIONS.
DEFMIN BELIEVES EGYPT WILL HAVE TO WEIGH THE CONSE-
QUENCES VERY SERIOUSLY BEFORE IT CONSIDERS ATTACKING
AMERICAN EARLY WARNING STATIONS. "ONE DOES NOT INVITE
AMERICANS IN ORDER TO ATTACK THEM."

6. EFFECT OF ISRAELI SUSPENSION FROM UN ON NEGO-
TIATIONS. PERES SAID ISRAEL SHOULD NOT REFUSE TO
MAKE PEACE WITH EGYPT SIMPLY BECAUSE IT IS
NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE UN. "THE PEACE IS NOT
CONTINGENT ON THE UN". CONVERSELY, SAID PERES, IF
EGYPT DOES NOT DESIRE PEACE, THEN IT IS UNIMPORTANT
WHETHER THERE IS A UN. RE UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE,
HOWEVER, DEFMIN STATED HIS OPINION THAT UNEF COULD NOT
BE MAINTAINED WITHOUT ISRAEL BEING AMEMBER OF THE
UN.

7. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNEF AND INTERIM AGREEMENT.
ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT SHOULD
THE SECURITY COUNCIL FAIL TO RENEW THE MANDATE FOR
UNEF, PERES REPLIED "EVEN THEN...THE BUFFER ZONE REMAINS
A BUFFER ZONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SETTLEMENT...AND
IF ANYONE SHOULD TRY TO ENTER...IT WOULD BE EXPLICITLY
VIOLATING THE SETTLEMENT."

8. ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA. PERES SUPPORTED THE
IDEA OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA, AND COULD EVEN
CONCEIVE OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, BUT NOT AT THE COST
OF GIVING UP EITHER ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ON THE GOLAN
OR IDF INSTALLATIONS ON THE HILLTOPS. ASKED ABOUT
HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH
SYRIA AND EGYPT, AS PROPOSED BY MOSHE DAYAN, PERES
POINTED OUT TWO PROBLEMS. FIRST, SYRIA MIGHT ATTEMPT
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TO COPY EGYPTIAN DEMANDS, WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE
BECAUSE OF THE GEOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE
SINAI AND THE GOLAN. SECONDLY, EGYPT COULD DRAG OUT
THE SINAI NEGOTIATIONS SO AS TO CONCLUDE THEM SIMUL-
TANEOUSLY WITH THE SYRIANS. PERES SUMMED UP BY
SAYING HE PREFERRED CONCURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT NOT
IF THEY WERE CONDITIONAL OR SIMULTANEOUS. END
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9. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: PERES' COMMENTS ON EGYPT ARE IN MARKED CONTRAST TO OVERTONE OF DISTRUST WHICH PERESS HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING IN RESPONSE TO SADAT'S JULY 23 SPEECH AND EGYPTIAN SUPPORT FOR JIDDA RESOLUTION. PERES' REMARKS CONCERNING NEXT STEP WITH SYRIA ILLUSTRATE HIS DILEMMA IN ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A POSITION BETWEEN RABIN'S REFUSAL TO CONTEMPLATE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON GOLAN AND DAYAN'S CONVICTION THAT INTERIM AGREEMENTS WITH EGYPT AND SYRIA SHOULD BE LINKED.
TOON

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